

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 06772

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (FUKUDA, TAKEO)
SUBJECT: FUKUDA VISIT

1. IN MEETING WITH DCM AND EMBOFF APRIL 17, PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY OWADA AND 1ST NORTH AMERICA DIVDIR WATANABE REVIEWED SOME OF GOJ'S CURRENT CONCERNS RELATING TO FUKUDA VISIT.
2. OWADA REMAINED SOMEWHAT ANXIOUS ABOUT PM'S MEETINGS ON HILL, AND POSSIBILITY THEY COULD PROVE SO DISORGANIZED AND UNFOCUSSED AS TO SERVE NO PURPOSE. DCM EMPHASIZED THAT, DESPITE POTENTIAL ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS, PROBABLY LESS SEVERE THAN OWADA IMAGINED, THIS WAS BY FAR BEST FORUM IF PM WISHED TO MAKE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON CONGRESS.
3. OWADA AND WATANABE WERE CONCERNED AS WELL RE AGENDA, IN PARTICULAR GOJ INABILITY TO DATE TO GET FIRM HANDLE ON WHAT US SIDE MIGHT RAISE. (AS AN EXAMPLE, WATANABE ASKED WHETHER PRESIDENT WOULD RAISE DOLPHIN KILL OR QUESTION OF GOJ POLICY TOWARD INDOCHINA REFUGEES. DCM SPECULATED DOLPHINS WERE MOST UNLIKELY TO BE RAISED BY ADMINISTRATION, EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS POSSIBILITY REFUGEE QUESTION WOULD BE TOUCHED UPON.) DCM SAID OUR GENERAL APPROACH WAS
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UNLIKELY TO HOLD SURPRISES FOR GOJ. U.S. SIDE WOULD WANT SERIOUS DISCUSSION, WITHIN TIME AVAILABLE, OF MAIN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES FAMILIAR TO BOTH SIDES. OUR POSITION TOWARD THOSE ISSUES WAS WELL KNOWN TO JAPANESE IN ALL SIGNIFICANT RESPECTS, AS WAS THEIRS TO US. DCM SUGGESTED THAT JAPANESE BE IN TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT DIRECTLY IF THEY FELT IN NEED OF FURTHER REFINEMENT OF

AGENDA SINCE TIME TO PREPARE PRINCIPALS WAS GROWING SHORT.

4. OWADA SAID HE WAS STRUGGLING TO PRODUCE AN EFFECTIVE "THEME" FOR VISIT, ENDEAVORING TO PUT MORE SUBSTANCE ON PHILOSOPHICAL FRAMEWORK CONSTRUCTED IN LAST FUKUDA VISIT.

HE HOPED TO SPELL OUT (IN PRESS STATEMENT AND BRIEFINGS IN WASHINGTON, OR IN PRIME MINISTER'S MAY 4 JAPAN SOCIETY SPEECH) WAYS IN WHICH JAPAN HAS MOVED TOWARD SOME OF OUR JOINT GOALS OVER PAST YEAR, NOT ONLY ECONOMIC BUT ALSO IN POLITICAL SPHERE AS WELL (E.G., FUKUDA DOCTRINE). FOREIGN OFFICE WAS IN PROCESS OF COMPILING REQUISITE SUPPORTIVE DETAIL.

5. WATANABE NOTED ASIA BUREAU HAD URGED THAT MAJOR GOAL OF VISIT BE TO ELICIT FROM U.S. SIDE MORE FORTHCOMING STATEMENT OF POLICY TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA. FOREIGN OFFICE WAS CONSIDERING HOW TO TREAT SUBJECT OF U.S.-SOUTHEAST ASIAN RELATIONS IN TALKING POINTS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS. IN GENERAL, GOJ TOOK VIEW THAT SOUTHEAST ASIA WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE IMPORTANT TO U.S. THAN WE CUSTOMARILY ADMITTED. OWADA AND WATANABE THOUGHT VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL IN CORRECTING IMPRESSIONS WITHIN REGION THAT U.S. WAS PAYING FAR TOO LITTLE ATTENTION TO ITS PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS.

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6. COMMENT: FOREIGN OFFICE AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF GOJ BUREAUCRACY ARE APPROACHING FINAL THROES OF TYPICALLY INTENSE VISIT PREPARATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, PRIME MINISTER HAS PARTICIPATED IN NO LESS THAN FIVE BRIEFING SESSIONS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS, EACH OF AT LEAST TWO HOURS DURATION, IN WHICH ALL SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND EVEN TACTICS OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY REVIEWED. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, CHARACTERISTIC JAPANESE DESIRE TO LEAVE NO DETAIL UNTOUCHED AND TO ELIMINATE ANY POSSIBILITY OF SURPRISE BECOMES EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED. JUDGING FROM OWADA'S RELATIVELY RELAXED DEMEANOR, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT PREPARATIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF OCEAN ARE ABOUT WHERE THEY SHOULD BE.

7. OWADA HAD HEARD THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, AS WELL AS NSC STAFF MEMBER ARMACOST, WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING VICE PRESIDENT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THUS WOULD NOT BE IN TOWN FOR PM VISIT. GOJ WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION. MANSFIELD

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